

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SCA-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 A-01 PER-01 SY-05

EURE-00 /054 W

-----091421Z 001372 /50

P R 091300Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8481

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 8204

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: DISCRIMINATORY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST EMBOFF  
AND WIFE

REF: A. MOSCOW 6433, B. MOSCOW 6523

1. SOVIET MFA USA DIVISION (TRIFONOV) CALLED IN EMBASSY POLITICAL  
OFFICER (JOHNSON) TO DELIVER NOTE IN REPLY TO EMBASSY'S NOTE  
OF MAY 11 CONCERNING THE DETENTION OF SECOND SECRETARY  
PAUL SMITH AND HIS WIFE IN TASHKENT ON MAY 9. ORIGINAL OF  
SOVIET NOTE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (EUR/SOV). FULL  
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS REFERS TO NOTE NO. 646 OF THE EMBASSY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DATED MAY 11, 1977, AND  
CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING:

AS A RESULT OF AN INVESTIGATION WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT, IT  
WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE VERSION OF EVENTS CONTAINED IN THE  
ABOVE-MENTIONED NOTE CONCERNING SOME SORT OF DETENSION OF  
EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY P. SMITH AND HIS WIFE IS COMPLETELY  
AT VARIANCE WITH THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AFFAIR AND  
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IN EFFECT IS AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE FROM THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT  
THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ILLEGAL ACTIONS.

AS WAS DETERMINED, P. SMITH OBTAINED FROM INTOURIST A  
TOUR COVERING THE ROUTE MOSCOW-TBILISI-ASHKHABAD-TASHKENT-  
URGENCH-TASHKENT-NOVOSIBIRSK AND HE SET OUT ON HIS TRIP  
WITHOUT HAVING REGISTERED IT IN THE PRESCRIBED MANNER WITH  
THE PROTOCOL DIVISION OF THE USSR MFA, THUS HAVING VIOLATED

EXISTING REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE TRAVEL OF FOREIGNERS  
WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR. THEREFORE, P. SMITH'S  
TOUR WAS INTERRUPTED IN TASHKENT ON MAY 9 AND HE AND HIS WIFE  
WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO MOSCOW.

SINCE AT THAT MOMENT IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE  
AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE UNABLE TO DEPART FOR MOSCOW AT ONCE  
BECAUSE OF METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, AEROFLOT EMPLOYEES  
MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO REST AT THE AIRPORT. P. SMITH  
MADE NO ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. UPON  
HIS REQUEST TO TELEPHONE THE UZBEK SSR MFA, IT WAS EXPLAINED  
TO P. SMITH THAT THE MFA DID NOT WORK ON HOLIDAYS. AFTER  
THE RENEWAL OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS, HE AND HIS WIFE LEFT  
TASHKENT FOR MOSCOW ON THAT SAME DAY BY THE FIRST FLIGHT.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREGOING, THE MINISTRY REJECTS  
THE PROTEST CONTAINED IN THE AFOREMENTIONED NOTE OF THE  
EMBASSY AS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED, DIRECTS THE ATTENTION OF THE  
EMBASSY TO THE CRUDE VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRAVEL  
WITHIN THE USSR ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, AND  
INSISTS THAT SUCH INCIDENTS NOT BE REPEATED. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: IN HANDING OVER NOTE, TRIFONOV SAID THAT IT  
WAS SELF-EXPLANATORY. EMBOFF READ NOTE AND  
ASKED WHETHER IT WAS REALLY SOVIET POSITION THAT SMITHS HAD  
NOT ATTEMPTED TO CALL EMBASSY. TRIFONOV REPLIED BY READING  
THAT SENTENCE FROM THE NOTE. EMBOFF SAID THAT THIS DID  
NOT CORRESPOND TO OUR UNDERSTANDING.

3. WE DO NOT INTEND TO LET MATTER REST HERE. WE PLAN TO  
SEND FOLLOW-UP NOTE TO MFA RE-EMPHASIZING THAT BASIS OF OUR  
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ORIGINAL PROTEST WAS NOT TECHNICALITIES OF SMITH'S TRAVEL  
ARRANGEMENTS BUT SOVIET REFUSAL TO ALLOW SMITH TO CONTACT  
EMBASSY. THIS CLEAR VIOLATION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION,  
PARTICULARLY GALLING IN THAT SMITH IS MEMBER OF EMBASSY  
STAFF, CANNOT BE WIPED AWAY BY FACILE SOVIET ASSERTION  
THAT SMITH NEVER TRIED TO CALL EMBASSY, AND WE INTEND  
RESTATE OUR PROTEST IN CLEAR AND FORCEFUL MANNER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 MOSCOW 6433, 77 MOSCOW 6523  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCRIMINATORY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST EMBOFF AND WIFE  
**TAGS:** OTRA, PINT, UR, US, (SMITH, PAUL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009